

**Hill Summer Study Abroad Testimonial**

**Calysta Springer, 3rd Year Marketing  
Paris School of Business, Paris, France – July 2019**

**What was special about the university you attended abroad?**

I attended PSB, Paris School of Business. I really enjoyed the program as it was a two-week program on Luxury Brand Management. The program was concise and focused on marketing high end products to specialized customers. The program is a unique learning experience that is not available at many universities and is a once in a life time experience.



**Did having this experience change the way you approach your studies or the way you participate in learning in the classroom since you returned to the UofR?**

Yes, it most definitely has! I am now considering taking international business courses and furthering my education of how business is conducted around the world. As well, I have already been looking at study abroad programs for this summer as I miss living and learning in another country. The experience is truly something that cannot be replicated and/or learned anywhere in Canada.

**How did the experience enrich your university education?**

This experience enriched my university education as I was able to see how a business school in another country teaches but how the people live as well. This enhanced my understanding of international education and daily living. Being able to view how others learn and live really opened my eyes to learning about the heightened artistic and ‘soul’ feel of France.

**Did the experience change the way you see the world in any way?**

As I am an avid traveler, my view of the world has changed as I was able to ‘live’ and not just visit Paris. At the beginning of my study abroad, I felt more like a tourist when I visited the Louvre, the Eiffel Tower, and many other tourist heavy attractions. By the end of my trip, I was visiting the local market and coffee shops on my way to classes, I had the metro stations memorized and I felt more at home than ever.

**Did you feel safe?**

Yes, I did feel really safe! There was never a time where I felt unsafe as my roommates and I or my classmates and I would go out together!

**How did you get around?**

I got around by metro! One of my roommates had been living in Paris for a year studying Fashion and she showed me the apps to use for the metro to make it easier to get around!

**What surprised you about your destination?**

Honestly, I thought it would be quite hard to get around the city but once I figured out how the metro works and that 15 blocks is actually a 5 minute walk, it was super easy!

**What was the biggest highlight from the experience?**

My biggest highlights from the trip were...

- 1) Studying and learning more about a foreign country
- 2) Meeting and making connections with new people
- 3) Learning new aspects of marketing and business
- 4) Personal growth by travelling across the world by myself

**What is your best insider tip for other students who plan to go on an exchange to help them have the best possible experience?**

Biggest insider tips ...

- 1) Get a metro pass!!! It will save you lots!!!
- 2) Do research before your trip in order to attain the most from your time spent abroad
- 3) Be open to different cultures and learn not just academics but study the people, culture, and history of the country you visit.
- 4) Try not to be nervous and embrace this opportunity as much as possible!



\*photos courtesy of Calysta Springer